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Letter dated 24 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I forward herewith the text of the communiqué produced at a joint meeting of the Political Committee for the Implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations Security Council mission to the Great Lakes region (see annex).

It would be appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Professor Mwelwa C. **Musambachime**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-38653 (E) 290501

Annex to the letter dated 24 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Agreement for a Ceasefire in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Joint meeting of the Political Committee for the Implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations Security Council mission to the Great Lakes region

Communiqué

1. At the initiative of both parties, a joint meeting of the Political Committee for the Implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement (S/1999/815, annex) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo took place in Lusaka, Zambia, on 22 May 2001, at the closing of the eleventh meeting of the Political Committee.

2. Mr. Frederick Chiluba, President of the Republic of Zambia opened the meeting.

3. All the signatories to the Ceasefire Agreement attended the meeting. They included the following: Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe, the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC), the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) and the Congolese Rally for Democracy-Kisangani (RCD-K). For the first time, representatives of Burundi were invited to participate in the meeting in order to discuss the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and resettlement process. The United Nations Security Council mission was led by the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations and included the representatives of China, Colombia, Ireland, Jamaica, Mali, Mauritius, Singapore, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The representatives of the Republic of Zambia and the Organization of African Unity and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo also attended the meeting.

4. The Political Committee exchanged views with members of the Security Council on the process of implementation of the Lusaka peace agreement. It reviewed what had been done in the areas of disengagement, disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and resettlement, the withdrawal of foreign forces, the inter-Congolese dialogue, the co-location of the Joint Military Commission with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the demilitarization of Kisangani since their last meeting in February 2001. In all these, the Political Committee apprised the members of the Council of the efforts made by the signatories to ensure the return of peace to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region as a whole. The Political Committee expressed its appreciation and asked for continuation of the partnership with the Council. The members of the Council assured the Political Committee of their support and cooperation.

5. The meeting expressed satisfaction with the progress made by the various parties in the disengagement process and redeployment of forces since the last

meeting of the Political Committee held on 6 April 2001. The Political Committee and the Security Council welcomed the declaration by MLC that it would disengage to the agreed positions with effect from 1 June 2001.

6. The meeting welcomed the adoption by the Political Committee of the plan for the orderly withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a calendar containing dates and timetables for implementation. The calendar is based on a start date of 22 February 2001, which is derived from Security Council resolution 1341 (2001). That resolution was adopted by the Council at the end of the last joint meeting, in New York, of the Council and the Political Committee.

7. The meeting welcomed the adoption by the Political Committee of the plan for disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration of all armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It was agreed that all parties that had not already done so would provide information as soon as possible on the numbers, location and armaments of the armed groups in order to facilitate United Nations planning to assist the parties in the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and resettlement process. All parties confirmed the existence of relations at the level of head of State and senior officials and considered these an important contributory factor to the peace process.

8. The Political Committee appealed to the Security Council to authorize the planning for phase III of MONUC deployment, as soon as the Joint Military Commission and the Political Committee had made available to MONUC all the necessary information on disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and resettlement and the withdrawal of foreign forces. The Political Committee called upon the Council to take into account the complexity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo peace process when considering the size and mandate of phase III MONUC deployment.

9. The meeting appreciated the efforts made by the Facilitator of the inter-Congolese dialogue, Sir Ketumile Masire, and welcomed his proposal to convene a preparatory meeting for the dialogue on 16 July 2001. The Security Council and the Political Committee expressed strong support for the inter-Congolese dialogue.

10. Concerning the co-location of the Joint Military Commission and MONUC in Kinshasa, the Chairman of the Political Committee announced the creation of a team, comprising the Chairman and Vice-Chairman assisted by Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, to find a compromise on this issue.

11. The meeting also discussed the demilitarization of Kisangani, in light of Security Council resolution 1304 (2000), in which the Council had called for the full demilitarization of the city. Kisangani is still occupied by the forces of RCD.

12. The meeting expressed its profound gratitude to the people and Government of the Republic of Zambia for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the members of the Political Committee during their stay in Lusaka.

Done at Lusaka on 22 May 2001